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**Patent claims**

1. A device for effecting the, in particular continuous, treatment, preferably the cleaning, of  
5 a metal strip (2) by means of a treatment liquid, particularly a pickling liquid, the metal strip being guided, preferably horizontally, through at least one tank (1) for accommodating the treatment liquid, particularly a pickling tank, with at least  
10 one pump circulation tank (3), preferably two pump circulation tanks, for preparing or storing and/or holding the treatment liquid, the pump circulation tank (3) being arranged directly under the tank (1), characterized in that the pump circulation  
15 tank (3) has a bottom (17), having a slope over the entire length, the slope being aligned in the strip running direction and/or transversely in relation to the strip running direction.
- 20 2. The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the tank (1) is configured as a shallow tank.
3. The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the tank (1) is configured with at least one  
25 cover.
4. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the pump circulation tank (3) and the tank (1) form a unit.  
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5. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tank (1) is structurally mounted on the at least one pump circulation tank (3).  
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6. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the contact surface between the tank (1) and the at least one pump circulation tank (3) is provided with a seal (18).
7. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the bottom (9) of the tank (1) forms the cover for the at least one pump circulation tank (3).
8. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tank (1) and the pump circulation tank (3) are produced from plastic, preferably polypropylene.
9. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tank (1) and the at least one pump circulation tank (3) are produced from rubberized steel.
10. The device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tank (1) is connected to the at least one pump circulation tank (3) via run-off chambers (4) and/or via at least one run-off (6) accommodating a change in length.
11. The device as claimed in one of the preceding